

# **GREAT NORTHERN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE (GNLCC) STEERING COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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*April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla  
Pendleton Oregon*

The following report presents a summary of the third meeting of the Steering Committee for the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The report is presented by the meeting facilitator, Scott Bischke of MountainWorks Inc. (scott@emountainworks.com; www.emountainworks.com). This report and all presentations are available on the GNLCC website: [www.nrmssc.usgs.gov/gnlcc](http://www.nrmssc.usgs.gov/gnlcc)



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## MEETING SUMMARY

This document provides a summary of the 3rd in-person meeting of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC) Steering Committee (SC). The meeting was held in Pendleton Oregon (April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla; April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion Hotel).

This summary primarily tracks Decisions made by the SC and includes the meeting agenda (Appendix A) and the list of attendees (Appendix C). Action items are denoted by “\*\*action—” and are summarized in a single table in a later section.

The full meeting notes and summary and all presentations and other materials in support of this meeting can be found at the GNLCC interim website ([www.nrmsc.usgs.gov/gnlcc](http://www.nrmsc.usgs.gov/gnlcc)).

### **Decision 1—Develop Great Northern Collective Landscape Vision**

**Decision 1:** The SC is being asked to discuss and comment on a draft vision statement and agree on a process to refine the draft through Strategic Framework development.

**Outcome:** The SC approved the process for creating/refining the draft vision statement as part of the Strategic Framework.

**Background:** Nina Chambers provided a talk on the visioning process that can be found at the GNLCC interim website ([www.nrmsc.usgs.gov/gnlcc](http://www.nrmsc.usgs.gov/gnlcc)). She presented a draft vision as a strawman to spur SC discussion and consideration:

#### ***A Landscape Legacy***

*A diversity of natural landscapes that support the GNLCC values:*

- Land
- Water
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Cultural heritage resources

The strawman did prompt SC feedback discussion including the following thoughts:

- The SC stated the need for further development of the vision statement with more inclusion from BC, Canadian, Tribal, First Nations and other partners.
- Some on the SC newly attending the meetings felt that we need to engage others rather than be prescriptive about the vision already being in place; that much work would need to be done with the First Nations, for example, to help cement the GNLCC partnership. A question: can the vision be created more organically, arising over a period of time? Answer: Yes.
- The SC recognized that while issues exist—for example the need to emphasize to new comers in the GNLCC that this is really about formation, not about endorsing—we should keep moving forward, that there will always be a changing cast of characters.

### **Decision 2—Approve the Proposal Recommended by the AT to Develop a GNLCC Strategic Framework**

**Decision 2:** The SC is being asked to approve the proposal to develop the Strategic Framework.

**Outcome:** The SC approved the proposal with full consensus, with the qualifications noted herein.

**Background:** The Visioning discussion and Strategic Framework discussion melded into each other (see the same presentation as noted in the previous section). Nina Chambers, who is leading the Strategic Framework Team, described the Strategic Framework Proposal, including:

- Nina Chambers from the Montana State University Institute of the Environment developed the proposal as our primary cooperator on the Strategic Framework. Nina engaged Gary Tabor (long history of working on large landscape issues in this area, with states, NGOs, federal agencies, and Canadian organizations) and Craig

Groves of TNC (long history of developing approaches to conservation strategy and improving adaptive management)

- **Goal of the Framework is still** to reach definition and agreement on the conservation objectives and strategies to reach them—*together*, among the partner community and across the entire region.
- **Proposal Sideboards:**
  - Engage GNLCC Partners and reflects a shared vision for values and goals
  - Reflects a nested approach of conservation objectives from large landscape process to species
  - Conservation targets are realistic and achievable—flagship priorities probably <=10
  - Process is respectful of people's time and does not create undue burden
- The proposal includes: **Vision; Outcomes; Theory of Change** (Constraints and Opportunities; Feasibility; Strategies and Results; and Risks and Assumptions); **Strategy Effectiveness; Capacity and Funding.**
- **Methods:** Interviews with SC, AT, key stakeholders; Presentation at AT meeting in March; Workshops for potential Regional Forum partners, Presentations at SC meetings
- **Timeframe:** Initial Product will be completed by Sept 20, 2011; As we develop this product we may find that more in-depth analysis is needed and more time will be allotted for that.

This proposal was vetted to and recommended by the AT at the March 7-8 meeting; follow up interviews with several Advisory Team members led to general consensus about the LCCS:

“Ultimately LCCs are a vehicle to create and move forward with a collective landscape vision that includes priorities, objectives, and measureable outcomes, including acting as a forum for coordination, providing science coordination, providing tools for resource managers ‘conservation practitioners’ to inform decisions, increase efficiency, and aligning expectations for short- and long-term outcomes.”

Challenges that the LCC must meeting include issues of scope, capacity, language, science, and funding.

Finally, Nina noted that the strategic framework has as its purpose clear prioritization of efforts, and harnessing the efforts of partners to be more meaningful at the landscape scale.

#### **SC feedback included:**

- Support and recognition of the profound shift on how we go about managing landscapes—today it's all about partnerships and working across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Some concern about the proposed implementation schedule (done by Sept 20, 2011 meeting) in proposal—can't make this timeline. Further discussion led to statement that the part of the process is revising the schedule. Core work done by September but not all complete. Instead, we could shoot for a good vision draft and a good structure of main priorities by September as the basis for a more substantive discussion with SC.
- The project plan was generally accepted but a concern stated that we need Canadian engagement.
- Discussion then led to SC support for the process outlined for creating the Strategic Framework. A statement was made that the details in proposal may be subject to modification and the investment is

worthwhile, but the budget is set. A new timeline will be created.

- Note was made that the cooperative agreement provides flexibility in that the budget can be extended if the work plan is modified.
- **\*\* action 1**—Strategic Framework team can commit to monthly updates/feedback from the SC via emails or scheduled calls.

### **Decision 3—Initiation of Sage-Steppe Partner Forum and other forums and Incorporation of Forums into the Strategic Framework**

**Decision 3:** The SC is being asked to approve the plan to initiate the Sage-Steppe Partner Forum (including participation in the Leadership Team by the Arid Lands Initiative and the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative) and to agree to the process to incorporate the Partner Forum process into the Strategic Framework.

**Outcome:** SC agreed that the GNLCC should proceed with ‘scoping’ of 3 partner forums as test of concept for the proposed outline and process and with full recognition by all that these will evolve with a) time, b) different local constituencies, and c) as we develop the forum needs. The process will be rolled into the Strategic Framework but allow for changes in process and paths.

**All agreed with abstention by R Mogren on behalf of the Federal Caucus (Yvette Converse provided an overview of Partner Forums to the Federal Caucus on Tuesday, April 19).**

**Background:** The Partner forums have three unique rolls in the LCC strategic framework, that of 1) a community of conservation-based practitioners connected by the landscape; 2) a reality-check for GNLCC identified themes, identify what exists, look for gaps; and 3) to communicate GNLCC goal/purpose/vision thus helping gain local buy-in.

While the initial discussion started out as a proposal for starting a single partner forum, it

morphed through the talk to the idea that the GNLCC should initiate all three Partner Forums—sage-steppe, Columbia Basin, Rocky Mountain region.

Some discussion centered on why three partner forums, not two or seven? The three were identified as follow up to the SC discussion in the first SC meeting in Bozeman, MT on April 21, 2010. There was some debate about whether defining these three Forum issue and ecological boundaries captured the entirety of how conservation issues are organized within the GNLCC.

A definition was provided that the forums are long-term gathering places to share information and build relationships. Put simply, we need the forums to help people connect both to the GNLCC but also to each other as they have common conservation interests and most importantly to create the network between GNLCC priorities and on-the-ground conservation priorities.

This discussion led to a related discussion that what the forums are called is key to how they are perceived and received. Some thought that “forums” sounded too formal for something in the trial stage. Descriptors put forth included “pilot”, “scoping exercise”, “initial areas of focus”, “test of concept”, “trial”, and “forum”.

Some discussion followed about SC hesitancy to start one, much less three projects. A counterstatement was made that such groups have been operating in the Columbia Basin. So the question should be about added value. **\*\* action 2** requested of the AT—define what value the LCC can add to existing groups through the formation of Partner forums.

Statements followed that Partners in the Rockies are ready to engage NOW and that it’s to our benefit to get this going. Also, examples given of partnerships that took five years to form solid partnerships and another five years to get data etc. The only risk is that we over extend ourselves.

SC stated that we seem to be struggling with launching something that may be perceived as creating undue expectations. Instead we should think of pilots in the context of the Strategic Framework. Identify GAPS in the three areas. We are trying to learn, not telling them what to do. We want to facilitate collaboration. We need to let the partners in the forum communicate what they want to create including the process to do so. This led to a conclusion that what is being proposed is primarily a 'scoping' exercise to coordinate a situation and gap analysis with respect to GNLCC priorities and that it makes sense to proceed cautiously allowing that each Forum will have unique partners, issues, and as a results, process and outcome. There was a suggestion to proceed in a scoping phase with each of the 3 Forums.

#### **Decision 4—Approve the Capacity Grants Program as recommended by the AT**

**Decision 4:** The SC is being asked to approve an on-line travel support template as a next step in development of a Capacity Grant Program.

**Outcome:** SC stated that before deciding on Decision 4 they need to know the cost of travel support and need to have criteria for making use of the grants. They additionally asked that a format for annual budget reporting to the SC be developed.

#### **Background**

- Capacity grants are not necessarily intended to be long term.
- Statements from SC were made that the states, tribes, and First Nations will and do rely on this support. Also, that if capacity grants are to be offered, they must be offered in an equitable way.
- **\*\* action 3** Develop background info on cost of travel support and need to have criteria for making use of the grants. They additionally asked that a format for annual budget reporting to the SC be developed.

#### **Decision 5—Approve FY11 Science Project Funding as Recommended by the Ranking Team**

**Decision 5:** The SC is being asked to approve a FY11 GNLCC Funding Allocation.

**Outcome:** The SC gave unanimous thumbs up to the proposed process shown in steps 1,2, and 3 below.

**Background:** Yvette provided a summary of the proposal review process for the GNLCC FY11 funding (Yvette's slide presentation can be found at the GNLCC interim website—[www.nrm-sc.usgs.gov/gnlcc](http://www.nrm-sc.usgs.gov/gnlcc)). The GNLCC received 86 proposals totaling over \$10M. Thirty-seven proposals met the general criteria as ranked by a multi-agency team of eight people.

The SC expressed appreciation for the process undertaken to review proposals.

Yvette noted that the selected proposal were divided into two parts: 1) projects to recommend to the NW Climate Science Center (\$800k; table 1 in her presentation), and 2) Projects for GNLCC funding (\$1M, table 2).

The SC stated concern about what would happen if the NWCSC either did not get funding or got funding and did not accept all the proposals recommended to it by the GNLCC; in other words, Table 2 projects are held up until the outcome for table 1 is known. A thought was put forward that the SC could approve table 2 be funded from GNLCC funds and if the NWCSC was unable to fund table 1 then the AT could determine if other funds (from NPS and others, from other pools of money ) are available.

This conversation generated lots of concern regarding the uncertainties surrounding the NWCSC funding of table 1—full, partial, or none.

The SC noted that table 2 represents diverse partnerships. Two new criteria for future selections were put forward—**\*\*action 4** Yvette, Tom modify ranking to give priority to projects already underway and those that provide

diversity to the portfolio of projects supported by the GNLCC.

A proposal was put forward to deal with the great uncertainty:

1. Send table 1 recommendations to the NWCSC for consideration for funding, under signature of GNLCC Chair and Vice Chair
2. SC accepts table 2 but no action is taken pending decision by NWCSC on table 1
3. Pending funding to table 1 from NWCSC revise the recommendation to include tables 1 and 2. This revision will include the two new criteria noted directly above and will come back to the SC.

**\*\* action 5** Yvette, Mary set up call with SC in May using Doodle for mid to late May.

**\*\* action 6** Yvette, Tom—need to work with NW CSC (and other regional funding opportunities) to align funding processes in a way that allows for leveraged and joint priority funding.

**\*\* action 7** Yvette, Tom do a reality check to ensure projects proposed for partial funding can be accomplished with recommended funding amount.

**\*\*action 8** Yvette, Tom add a field trip option to Sept SC meeting in Whitefish.

No dates or locations have yet been set for the 2012 meetings, though some there was some preliminary discussion about having a future meeting in British Columbia.

#### SC TELECONS

The next telecon of the SC is expected to be in mid to late May 2011, exact date to be determined based on a doodle poll to set a call date. Yvette will send out that information by the end of April.

### **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULING**

#### SC FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

The Fall 2011 meeting of the GNLCC SC will be held September 20-21 at the Grouse Mountain Lodge ([www.grousemountainlodge.com/](http://www.grousemountainlodge.com/)) in Whitefish Montana. The meeting will be hosted by the National Park Service (John Wessel and Chas Cartwright, Glacier Supt, hosting; Tom Olliff primary logistical contact). A possible tour of nearby Glacier National Park is being discussed, plus the meeting will provide some synergy for those attending the Crown of the Continent meetings at approximately the same time. More information will follow soon from the GNLCC coordinators.

## ACTION ITEMS IDENTIFIED DURING THIS MEETING

The following table provides a summary of the action items developed during this two day meeting. Completion dates were not explicitly stated in all cases. Thus the dates shown are in some cases suggested by the facilitator.

#	Who	What	By when
1	Chambers, Tabor, Rose Olliff, Converse	<b>** action 1</b> —Tom Olliff: Strategic Framework team can commit to monthly updates to the SC via emails or via scheduled calls.	monthly
2	AT	<b>** action 2</b> —define what value the LCC can add to existing groups through the formation of Partner forums.	For Sep SC meeting
3	Converse, Olliff	<b>** action 3</b> — SC stated that before deciding on Decision 4 they need to know the cost of travel support and need to have criteria for making use of the grants. They additionally asked that a format for annual budget reporting to the SC be developed.	For Sep SC meeting
	Converse, Olliff	<b>**action 4</b> —modify recommendation to give priority to projects already underway and those that provide diversity to the portfolio of projects supported by the GNLCC.	By mid May 1
5	Converse McFadzen	<b>** action 5</b> —set up call with SC in May using Doodle when more information is available about NW CSC funding and leveraging with GNLCC	Sometime in May
6	Converse, Olliff	<b>** action 6</b> —work with NWCSC to align funding opportunities	By next shared funding cycle
	Converse, Olliff	<b>** action 7</b> Yvette, Tom do a reality check to ensure projects proposed for partial funding can be accomplished with recommended funding amount.	Before funding allocation
7	Converse, Olliff	<b>**action 8</b> —add a field trip option to Sept SC meeting in Whitefish.	During planning efforts



## APPENDIX A: MEETING AGENDA

### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

*April 12 (optional)*

- 3pm-5pm: Guided Tour of Tamastlikt Cultural Institute Museum

*April 13*

- 8:30am to 5 pm: Meeting Day 1 at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute
- 6pm: Group dinner

*April 14*

- 8:30am to 12 noon: Meeting Day 2 at Red Lion Conference Center (note location change!)

### DECISION ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING

1. A Collective Landscape Vision
2. GNLCC Strategic Framework
3. Initiation of Sage-Steppe Partner Forum and Incorporate in Strategic Framework
4. Capacity Grants Program
5. FY11 Funding Appropriation

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, BEGIN AT 8:30 AM AT TAMASTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE

<b>830 AM – 900</b>	Scott Bischke	Introductions - Welcome from USFWS, NPS
<b>900 - 945</b>	Eric Quaempts, Director, CTUIR DNR; Scott O'Daniel, Research	<b><u>CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA</u></b> 1. Welcome 2. Umatilla First Foods and Climate Change
<b>945 - 1000</b>	Y. Converse T. Olliff	<b><u>GNLCC YEAR 1 OVERVIEW (20 MIN)</u></b>
<b>1000 - 1015</b>	<i>Break</i>	
<b>1015 - 1145</b>	Led by Nina Chambers, Gary Tablor	<b><u>DEVELOPING A COLLECTIVE LANDSCAPE VISION</u></b> 1. Agency Perspectives on Landscape Conservation: Panel 2. Mapping Partner Missions and Programs 3. A Collective Vision
<b>1145 – 1245</b>	A multi-agency panel discussion <i>Catered lunch</i>	Panel members: M. Whitfield – Heart of the Rockies Initiative; D. Brittel- WA DFW; E. Quaempts-CTUIR DNR; L. Weldon-USFS; Schuler or D'Erchia, NWCSC USGS
<b>1245 – 200</b>	Nina Chambers Tom Olliff	<b><u>THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK</u></b> 1. Purpose of Framework 2. Building on existing landscape efforts: Crown of the Continent Example—Bill Dolan, Alberta Parks Div. 3. Decision for Strategic Framework Process and Outcome
<b>200 - 315</b>	Yvette Converse Nina Chambers	<b><u>MAKING IT WORK</u></b> 1. The Sage-Steppe Partner Forum 2. Moving forward with Columbia Basin and Rocky Mountain Forum
<b>315 – 330</b>	<i>Break</i>	
<b>330 – 400</b>	Tom Olliff	3. The Demonstration Collaboration Project (30 min)
<b>400 – 430</b>	Yvette Converse	4. Update on status of LCCs nationwide (30 min)
<b>430</b>	<i>Adjourn</i>	
<b>600 PM</b>	<i>Dinner</i>	Meet for group dinner



**THURSDAY, APRIL 14, BEGIN AT 8:30 AM AT RED LION CONFERENCE CENTER**

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<b><u>GNLCC PRODUCTS &amp; PARTNERSHIP PROFILES (1.5 HOURS)</u></b>		
<b>830 AM – 1030</b>	Multiple speakers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. WA Connected Landscapes-Joanne Schuett-Hames</li><li>2. GNLCC Data Portal-Tim Kern</li><li>3. Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative-F. D’Erchia</li><li>4. Resource Directory-M. McFadzen</li><li>5. Pacific North Aquatic Monitoring Partnership- J. Bayer</li><li>6. Yakama/Methow River Basin Assessment – A. Maule</li></ol>
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<b>1030 - 1045</b>	<i>Break</i>	
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<b><u>BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS (1.5 HOURS)</u></b>		
<b>1045 - noon</b>	Y. Converse  T. Olliff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Capacity and Operations (20 min)</li><li>2. Capacity Grant Program (20 min)</li><li>3. FY11 Funding Appropriations (1 h)<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Review of GNLCC Advisory Team FY11 Funding Recommendation</li><li>b) Decision on final funding allocation for FY11 Science and Info Priorities</li></ol></li></ol>
<hr/>		
<b>1200 noon</b>	<u>ADJOURN</u>	<u>TRAVEL SAFELY!</u>

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*Meeting Facilitator: Scott Bischke, MountainWorks Inc.  
scott@emountainworks.com*

## **APPENDIX C: MEETING ATTENDEES**

A scan of an attendance spreadsheet for the Pendleton meeting is shown below. Attendees included SC members, AT members, contractors, presenters, and support staff. A spreadsheet showing the full SC membership (and proxies) can be found at the GNLCC interim website (<http://www.nrmssc.usgs.gov/gnlcc>). Three individuals—Leslie Weldon, Cindy Swanson, and Larry Kruckenburg—participated via webinar for all or a portion of the meeting.

# Attendance Record

GNLCC Steering Committee Meeting 4/13 (date) // Cultural Institute (location)

Tamasi SIKT  
Cultural  
Institute

Name	Affiliation (if any)	e-mail	Phone #
Frank D'Erchia	USGS - Rocky Mountain Area, Denver	fderchia@usgs.gov	303-236-1460
Dale Becker	CS&KT - Wildlife Mgmt.	daleb@c&kt.org	406-883-2888
Carl Scheeler	CTUIR - Wildlife DNR	carlscheeler@ctuir.org	541-429-7242
Sharon Kiefer	Idaho Fish & Game	sharon.kiefer@idfg.idaho.gov	208-334-3771
Bill Doolan	ALBERTA PARKS - Crown Mgr. Park	bill.doolan@gov.ab.ca	403-382-4347
Rick Morren	Columbia Basin Federal Cows	rick.morren@NOAA.gov	(503) 872-2793
STEVE GUERTIN	US Fish & Wildlife Service	STEPHEN - GUERTIN@FWS.GOV	303-236-7920
John Wessels	US National Park Service	john.wessels@nps.gov	303/641-9214
Michael Whitham	Heart of the Rockies Initiative	whitham@silverstar.com	208-354-2075
Dave McDonough	Parks Canada	Dave.McDonough@Parks.ca	403-859-5116
Bryant Fairley	British Columbia Intergov. Relations	Bryant.Fairley@gov.bc.ca	250-480-8717
Tony Wideski	BC Ministry of Forest, Land, and Resource	Tony.Wideski@gov.bc.ca	250-426-1741
Dave Brittell	Washington Dept Fish and Wildlife	dave.brittell@dfw.wa.gov	(360) 902-2504
Glenn Pauley	Wyoming Game and Fish Dept	glenn.pauley@wyo.gov	(307) 777-4637
TOM OLLIFF	GNLCC Co-Coordinator	tom-olliff@nps.gov	406.994.7920
Mary M. Fadyen	GNLCC / MSU	mmaryfadyen@montana.edu	406 582 0530
Greg Watson	US Fish & Wildlife Service - R6	greg-watson@fws.gov	303-236-8155
Stephen Zylstra	US Fish & Wildlife Service	stephen-zylstra@fws.gov	503-231-6237





## Attendance Record

GNLCC Steering Committee Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ (date) // \_\_\_\_\_ (location)

Name	Affiliation (if any)	e-mail	Phone #
SEAN Finn	USFWS / GNLCC	sean-finn@fws.gov	208-426-2697
Brad Shepard	Wildlife Conservation Society (Molly Cross)	bshepard@wcs.org	406 223 3011
JUNE HUES	BLM - OR/WA	jhues@blm.gov	509-536-1263
Jen Bayer	USGS / PNAMP	jibayer@usgs.gov	503.201.4179
Rachel Reagan	USGS / CRRL	rreagan@usgs.gov	509-538-2299 x354
Alec MAULE	USGS / CRRL	AMAULE@USGS.GOV	" " " x239
Rick Sogda	USGS	sogda@usgs.gov	406.994-1820
GARY TABOR	CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION	WILDCAT@USFWS.GOV	406 586 8082
Karen Senhadji	DOI / PMB	karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov	202-208-5479
Yvette Converse			

